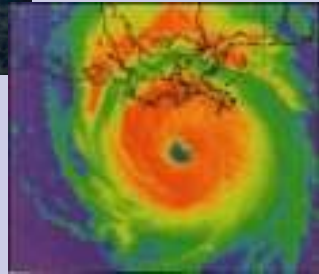


Emergency Preparedness Guide



Harris County
Precinct 2

Commissioner Sylvia R. Garcia

Dear Resident,

Harris County Precinct Two is providing this emergency preparedness guide to assist you in making preparations for the many events that can affect our area. This guide will give you the basics to prepare for a hurricane, tropical storm or chemical emergency.

The year 2008 reminded us that although there are some years that we do not have a tropical storm event we are not immune. Hurricane Ike caused \$8.5 billion of damage to homes in Harris County, most of them in Precinct 2.

Every year, it is important we take steps to make sure our families are ready to weather a storm.

Residents should follow these three steps to prepare for any type of disaster:

- **Make A Plan**
- **Build A Kit**
- **Stay Informed**

More details on these steps can be found at www.ready.gov or www.listo.gov.

If you will need help the next time an evacuation is ordered call 2-1-1 to register so emergency professionals will be prepared.

Our community center staff will also be happy to help you register. Immediately after the storm our Road & Bridge crews will be hard at work clearing roads and picking up debris.

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Make a Plan

Disasters can strike at anytime. Create a basic plan that you can follow in most disasters and discuss this plan with your family. Hurricane Season begins June 1st and lasts until November 30th. It is important you have a plan in place before the situation arises. The following steps will help you make your personal plan.

- Determine if you would stay or where you would go if an evacuation is ordered.
- Figure out how you would get there, remember roads may be blocked.
- Review your insurance policies and coverage.
- Take photos of your property and valuables, store this information in a safe place (ex. Safety deposit box).

- Make any necessary repairs to your home.
- Purchase plywood and cut it for your windows.
- Make a list of important phone numbers, and establish an out of town contact with whom your family can check in.
- Keep your vehicle fueled.
- Make sure all family members are aware of the plan.
- Prepare an emergency supply kit.
- Make copies of important documents.



Build a Kit

You will need two separate supply kits — one for when you evacuate and another for when you return or while you are at home during the disaster.

At-Home Kit

- Two flashlights, extra batteries and bulbs.
- A battery operated radio.
- Extra batteries for everything battery operated in your kit.
- Ice to keep food cold (freezing plastic bottles of water works well).
- A manual can opener.
- Matches and a lighter, beware of broken gas lines after the storm.
- A camping stove or grill and charcoal.
- A fire extinguisher and a box of baking soda in case of a grease fire.
- Two week supply of prescription and over-the-counter medicine.
- If there is a baby in the house have a two week supply of diapers, formula, etc.

At - Home Kit (continued)

- A first aid kit.
- Non-perishable food items for a two week supply.
- Tarps.
- Towels - at least three per person.
- Camera and film.
- Kitchen utensils.
- A whistle.
- Cell phone.
- Bottled water - at least one gallon per person per day for two weeks.
- Plastic storage bags.
- Trash bags.

Evacuation Kit

- A map and compass.
- A can of tire sealer.
- Sleeping bags.
- Air mattress.
- Identification.
- Important documents.
- Extra clothes, shoes, etc.
- Books and games.
- Hygiene items - Soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.
- Cash.










What is a Hurricane?

A hurricane is one of nature's deadliest storms. It is a tropical cyclone with wind speeds above 74 mph. Hurricanes develop over warm ocean waters. First it gathers heat and energy and then it adds evaporated moisture from the sea followed a by formation of a circular wind pattern. The center of the hurricane is called the eye. In general the eye is calm, however the eye wall is the most violent area of the storm. Hurricanes produce high winds, storm surge, flooding and tornadoes.

Hurricane Classification

- **Tropical Disturbance**— a rotary system of clouds and thunderstorms in the upper atmosphere that has no effect on the surface.
- **Tropical Depression**— a low pressure area that produces rotary action on the ocean surface and has winds less than 39 mph.
- **Tropical Storm**— a low pressure area with a distinct rotation and winds between 40 and 73 mph.
- **Hurricane**— An intense tropical weather system with a well defined circulation and sustained winds of 74 mph or more.

Saffir Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale

Category 1 	Category 2 	Category 3 	Category 4 	Category 5 
Sustained winds 74-95 mph. ■ Some damage to buildings and trees; power outages possible with downed poles.	Sustained winds 96-110 mph. ■ Widespread damage to buildings and trees. Windows in high rise buildings blown out. Loose outdoor items become projectiles. Many trees uprooted or snapped. Widespread power outages.	Sustained winds 111-130 mph. ■ Extensive damage to houses and buildings, with a minor amount of wall failures. Older mobile homes and poorly constructed signs are destroyed. Downed trees block roads. Near total power loss.	Sustained winds 131-155 mph. ■ Devastating damage, including wall and roof structure failures. All signs blown down. Most trees will be snapped or uprooted. Electricity will be unavailable for weeks after the hurricane passes.	Sustained winds over 155 mph. ■ Catastrophic damage, including complete building failures and small buildings blown over or away. Most windows in high rise buildings blown out. Nearly all trees snapped or uprooted. Power outages last for weeks or months.

Source: National Hurricane Center

CHRONICLE

Understand Advisories



Watches and Warnings

- **Tropical Storm Watch**— Wind Speeds of 39-73 mph are expected within 48 hours

- **Tropical Storm Warning** – Wind Speeds of 39-73 mph are expected within 36 hours

- **Hurricane Watch**—

Wind Speeds of 74 mph or greater are expected within 48 hours

- **Hurricane Warning**— Wind Speed of 74 mph or greater are expected within 36 hours.

Storing Food and Water



Whether you are staying during the storm or returning afterwards you will need a 14 day supply of non-perishable food and water. If you are at home and power is off, eat cold foods first. Only open the refrigerator and freezer doors when necessary.

If you have a generator, use it. Most generators will run lights and a refrigerator. Place generators in well ventilated areas and connect devices directly to generator.

Water is also important to have. The local water supply may become contaminated during a hurricane. You will need 14 gallons per person to last two weeks. After the storm, boiling water will help kill most bacteria.



Protect Your Home



Inspect your home for any weak points that make your home vulnerable. Follow this list:

- Start at the Top: Check your roof for loose shingles, weak spots, are gables securely fastened and braced?
- Make sure gutters are tightly hinged and drain freely. Make sure storm drains aren't clogged.
- Work your way down: Check all windows and doors. Are they sufficiently caulked, are shutters properly installed, is plywood precut?
- Don't forget the Garage: Garage doors are a weak point of entry for damaging winds.
- Get Grounded: If you have loose objects on the lawn, secure them. This includes landscaping, bird feeders, toys, bicycles, and lawn furniture.

If you live in an evacuation zone

When the order is given to evacuate, don't panic.

- Pack your emergency supply kits.
- Gather important documents.
- Turn off the gas, water and electric supply to your house. The gas will have to be turned back on by a professional after the storm.
- Lock all windows and doors.
- Notify family/friends of your destination.
- Pack games and books.
- Keep your vehicle fueled while under threat.
- Be patient and drive carefully.
- To find the evacuation zone in which you live and the best routes to use view the map on the next page or visit <http://www.hcoem.org/HCMap.aspx?P=Evacuation>





Mobile Home Residents

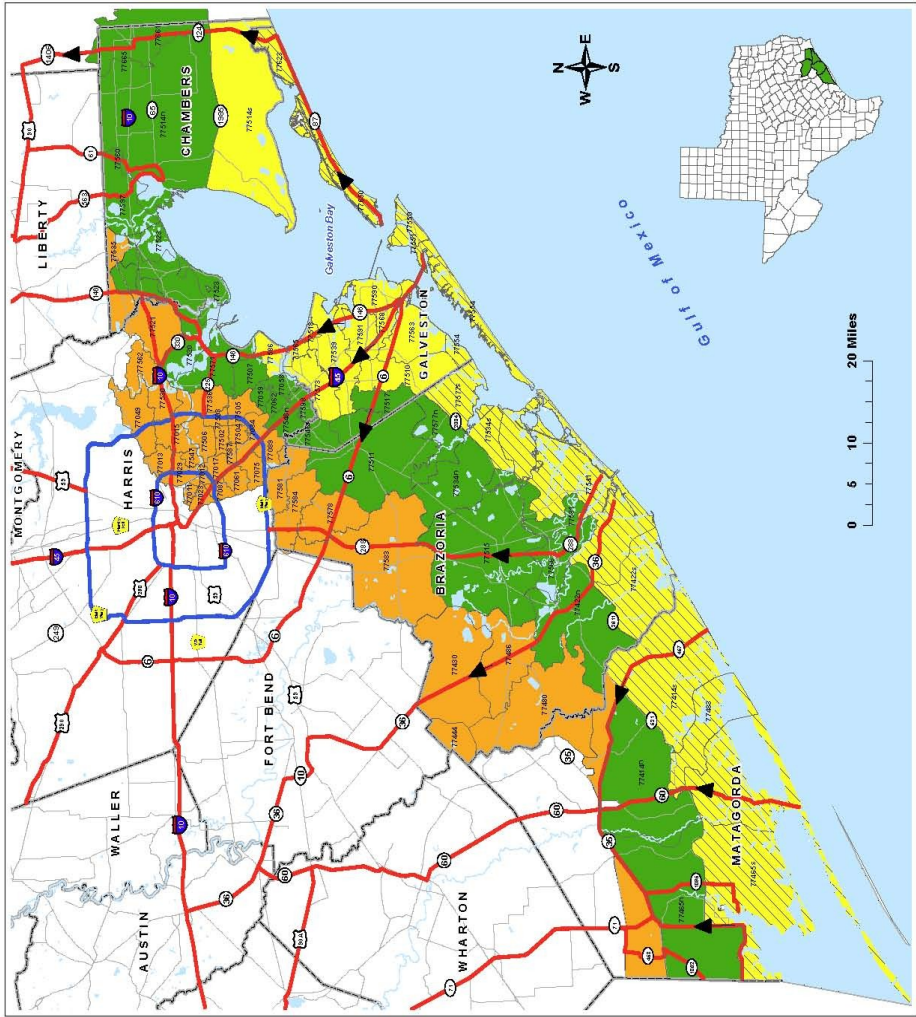
It is extremely important you evacuate. Before the storm arrives make sure your home is well anchored with tie downs. When evacuating follow the same directions listed above.

**Brazoria, Chambers,
Galveston, Harris and
Matagorda
Hurricane Evacuation
Zip-Zones
Coastal, A, B, C**

Year	7/14/15	7/20/15	7/26/15	7/31/15	7/15/16
2015	774145	774083	775050	775173	776500
2016	774223	775246	774551	775817	776767
2017	774658	775441	776254	776623	777623
2018	775100	775639	776588	776930	777930
2019	775145	775693	776737	777191	778191
2020	775181	775756	776806		
2021	775681	776507	777522	778500	779501
2022	776591	777514	778531	779561	780561
2023	777526	778549	779576	780639	781639
2024	778560	779587	780616	781698	782698

Route Designation

-  Evacuation Corridors
 Evacuation Connections
 Other Roads
 County Boundary



Expiration Date December 2009
Map Created by:
Houston-Galveston Area Council

If you stay at Home . . .

- Secure all windows and doors with plywood.
- Keep updated about the storm by TV or radio.
- Remove all loose items from your yard.
- Keep flashlights handy.
- Have emergency supplies nearby.
- Stay away from windows, go to the lower level to avoid winds but be aware of surge and flooding.
- If the power goes out turn off water heater and air conditioner.
- If flooding occurs, safely turn off your breaker box.
- Do not use your computer, turn it off.
- Do not go outside your house until told, remember the eye of the storm is calm.
- Have cash on hand.
- Fuel your vehicle.



Keep Your Business Out of the Red

- Secure windows and doors.
- Back up all data files and store them in a safe place.
- Make provisions to work without electricity, sewage, or water for two weeks.
- Have your business appraised every 4 years.
- Keep a current inventory of all equipment.
- Keep copies of your insurance papers handy.
- Consider purchasing Business Interruption insurance.
- Visit your local Office of Emergency Management to receive useful tools for Disaster Preparedness.



Caring for the elderly

It can be difficult for elderly people to evacuate their homes quickly. Some cannot evacuate without assistance. The elderly move slowly and are prone to health complications in stressful situations.



If you are the care giver or neighbor of an elderly person, make sure the person has adequate evacuation plans or assist them in making these plans. If a person is unable to evacuate on their own they should call **2-1-1** and register for transportation assistance.

Tips to Keep the Elderly Safe

- When you move into the area, register with the local emergency management office.
- If you are under a physician's care tell them where you will go during a storm.
- If you require a respirator, oxygen, or electronic medical equipment, make arrangements to evacuate with supplies.
- When evacuating bring all medicines and proper dosage instructions, a two week supply of medicines is recommended.
- Bring any special equipment you will need.
- Don't forget basic emergency supplies.



Ensuring your pet's safety

The most important thing you can do to protect your pets is keep them with you even if you evacuate. Some shelters may not accept pets so make sure you plan ahead. Ask friends and relatives in other areas if you and your animals could stay there during an evacuation. Check hotels in the area to which you will evacuate for pet policies. Ask if those that currently don't allow pets will do so in an emergency. Make sure your pet has proper identification and the phone number on the tag is one at which you can be reached.



If You Stay at Home with your Animals

- Identify a safe area where you can stay together.
- Keep animals in carriers or on leashes.
- Keep several days supply of food and water for your animal.
- If you must leave take your animals with you.
- After the storm do not allow your pets to roam.



A Pet Supply Checklist

- Medications and Medical Records Stored in a watertight container.
- Leashes, Harnesses and Carriers.
- Current photos.
- Food and Water for at least 3 days for each pet, bowl, cat litter and litter box, and a manual can opener.
- Phone number of veterinarian.
- Pet beds and toys.

Keep your boat Afloat

At the Marina

- Check all cleats, ropes, chocks, and winches for strength. Double the rigging lines fore and aft.
- Ensure lines are high enough on the pilings to allow for extreme ebb and flow of the ocean during the storm surges.
- Cover ropes with leather or rubber. where they rub against the boat and tie points. This will protect the boat and rigging lines.
- Make sure batteries for the bilge pump are fresh.
- Use canvas tape to cover any cracks or openings on the craft.
- Tie old tires around the boat to protect it from being pushed into other boats or the pier.
- Loose items should be removed or secured inside the craft.



For Boats on Land

- Remove and store the outboard motor, batteries, and electronic units.
- Deflate the trailer tires. Tie down boat and trailer.
- If possible move them into a garage.

After the Storm

Be patient. Re-entry may be controlled by local law enforcement. The area may not have electricity, water, sewer or phone service. Live off emergency kits you prepared before the storm. Below are a few tips to follow:

- Continue to monitor the radio for updates and instructions.
- Keep ID handy, in case are you asked to prove residence.
- Drive only if necessary, drive extremely cautiously.
- Stay clear of downed power lines, inspect all fences, trees, and buildings for visibly downed power lines.
- Be careful when removing large debris such as plywood, snakes and other animals may be using it for shelter. Large debris removal should be left to the professionals.
- Upon entering your home open all doors and windows to ventilate and dry the area.
- After flooding, have breakers checked by electrician before turning on.
- Do not light matches or candles because of the possibility of broken gas lines - use flashlights.
- Keep grills, camp stoves, and generators outside in well ventilated areas.
- Before you begin cleaning, photograph and videotape damages for insurance purposes.
- Wear protective clothing, jeans and a long sleeved shirt, to protect against injuries.

Chemical Awareness

No matter where you live you may be exposed to a chemical emergency. These emergencies can happen at anytime. Small chemical emergencies can happen in your home. Always make sure to read the product label and follow the directions. Large scale chemical emergencies may happen on highways, railways or at fixed facilities.

After a storm it is important to be aware of chemicals that may be in the debris. If you see or smell something that isn't right - report it. If it is an unknown chemical, move upwind and call the fire department to investigate. If you smell gas move to a well ventilated area where you can no longer smell the fumes and call Centerpoint to inform them of a leak.

If you see unusual flaring or an odor from a chemical plant you can call the CAER line at 281-476-CAER for further information. If there is a large release you will be notified by the outdoor warning sirens in most communities. Should this occur follow the instructions on the following page.

When you are notified of or suspect a chemical release:

1. Go Inside. If possible go into an interior room away from windows.
2. Close all windows and doors. Turn off the A/C or Heat. Close any outside air intake (example fireplace damper). If necessary use plastic sheeting and duct tape.
3. Do not use the phone unless you have an emergency. Turn on your TV and/or radio and wait for further information.



Helpful Numbers and Links

Harris County Precinct 2—24 Hour Number 713-455-0062

Harris County Information Line 713-755-5000

CAER Line—for Industry Information 281-476-2237

National Flood Insurance Program 1-888-379-9531

FEMA 1-800-621-3362

Local Road Conditions and Closures 713-802-5074

Center Point Energy 713-207-2222

[Www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

[Www.listo.gov](http://www.listo.gov)

[Www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov)

[Www.hcoem.org](http://www.hcoem.org)

http://www.co.harris.tx.us/comm_garcia

<http://www.pct2emergencycenter.com>

<http://www.safeschoolalerts.com>

Notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, leaving small margins at the top and bottom. There are no vertical margin lines, and the paper is otherwise completely blank.

Call 211 Now
If you will need help
Evacuating from the storm



Sylvia R. Garcia
Commissioner

If you have questions about this
brochure call the
Precinct 2 Safety Office at
713-455-0062

For more preparedness information visit
www.hcoem.org